

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 SIL-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01

L-03 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01 EURE-00 /130 W

----- 082409

P R 011510Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7227

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCON MELBOURNE

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 0434

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, XX, FIE

SUBJECT: EAST-WEST METALWORKERS CONFERENCE

REF: COPENHAGEN 236

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1. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY LABOR ATTACHE ON

FEBRUARY 28 INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY OF FINNISH METAL WORKERS UNION, KAJ LAXEN, CONFIRMED REFTEL'S ACCOUNT OF NOVEMBER 1973 MOSCOW MEETINGS OF METALWORKERS

UNIONS LEADERS. LAXEN'S LIST OF ATTENDEES TALLIED EXACTLY WITH THAT REPORTED EARLIER EXCEPT HE FAILED TO MENTION THE INVITEES THAT DID NOT SHOW. HE SAID ALL THREE ITALIAN METALWORKERS UNIONS WERE REPRESENTED BUT THAT FRANCE WAS REPRESENTED ONLY BY CGT UNION.

2. ALL PARTICIPATING IN MOSCOW MEETING (EXCEPT THE JAPANESE WHO HAVE NOT BEEN HEARD FROM) HAVE RESPONDED AFFIRMATIVELY TO INVITATION TO MARCH 4-6 MEETING IN HELSINKI. IN ADDITION DELEGATION WILL BE PRESENT FROM EGYPT AS WELL AS TWO "OBSERVERS" FROM WEST GERMAN IG METAL. UAW WAS INVITED TO HELSINKI MEETING, LAXEN SAID, BUT HAD SENT CATEGORICAL REFUSAL TO ATTEND FORTHCOMING MEETING OR A POSSIBLE FUTURE CONFERENCE.

3. LAXEN SAID HELSINKI MEETING WOULD NOT SEEK TO DETERMINE FINAL AGENDA FOR CONFERENCE BUT WOULD BE TO "EXCHANGE VIEWS" AND FIND OUT AREAS OF AGREEMENT AND DISAGREEMENT. CONFERENCE SITE MAY BE DISCUSSED AND LAXEN SAID ENGLAND AND FRANCE WERE UNDER CONSIDERATION.

4. LAXEN, WHO WAS FRIENDLY BUT NOT PARTICULARLY FORTHCOMING, ADMITTED THAT OTHER SCANDINAVIANS AND SOME OTHER IMF (INTERNATIONAL METALWORKERS FEDERATION) AFFILIATES WERE OPPOSED TO CONFERENCE BEFORE RAPPROCHEMENT HAD BEEN WORKED OUT ON "FEDERATION LEVEL", I.E., BETWEEN IMF AND EAST-EUROPEAN METALWORKERS SECRETARIAT IN PRAGUE. LAXEN CLAIMED THAT THE OTHER SCANDINAVIANS UNDERSTOOD FINLAND'S "SPECIAL POSITION" AND ACCEPTED IT JUST AS FINNS RESPECTED THEIR VIEWS. LAXEN IMPLIED THAT JANUARY 19 EAST-WEST MEETING IN GENEVA MIGHT HELP WIDEN ACCEPTANCE AT CONFERENCE. ASKED WHETHER THESE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION HAD BEEN THRASHED OUT IN NORDIC METALWORKERS FEDERATION, LAXEN REPLIED HE HAD NOT YET PUT "HIS VIEWS" TO OTHER NORDICS AND

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IT WAS THEREFORE PREMATURE TO CONVEY THEM TO US.
KREHBIEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, MEETINGS, LABOR UNIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974HELSIN00434
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: HELSINKI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740376/aaaacsbh.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: COPENHAGEN 236
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAR 2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <04 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EAST-WEST METALWORKERS CONFERENCE
TAGS: ELAB, XX
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005